

## **Module 10: Understanding Self**

### **Authentic Assessment: Personal Statement and Goals Letters**

#### **Personal Statement**

Dear Reader,

Writing is an outlet for me. I keep a journal, and I feel it is important not only to write essays and research papers but also personal journals. Writing allows people to express themselves and hear what others have to say. It allows a child to travel great distances to England or Alaska for a few hours. Reading and writing let the mind run wild. It is also a way to let others know your ideas and feelings.

My writing process usually begins with a brainstorming, or pre-write. Sometimes this is done in my head, or sometimes I write it out. When I have to do formal essays or papers for school, I usually create an outline. Then, I create a rough draft. I revise, create another rough draft, and revise again. I have my mom edit it. Finally, it is done!

I picked out these pieces of writing for my portfolio because I believe they represent my best work and my writing abilities. I do take pride in all of my work and I won't hand in a half done piece of writing. I have included all of the drafts and pre-writing for this portfolio. I think my process makes me the writer I am. I have the ability to sit at a computer and write, revise, and write again. I edit and revise my papers until they sound good to me. I think that a lot of writers don't take the time to read their writing out loud to themselves to catch their mistakes before they hand in their work.

I think I am strongest at writing research papers. I spend more time doing pre-writing on those types of papers than any other. I do brainstorms, notes, drafts, and several revisions. I try to put in all of my main ideas and take information from a variety of sources and make them flow together in my papers. I am also careful to create a works cited page. I also think I am a strong story writer. I like to be creative. I also like being able to choose what I write about. Those stories always include a lot of really good details that I don't have the chance to write on formal assignments for school.

Another one of my strengths is transitions. I believe that if I really want to, I can make a paper flow with exceptional grace. Pulling the right paragraphs together at the right time and arranging them in the correct order is imperative to making a paper sound right. Overall, I think I am a pretty well-rounded writer. I enjoy personal writing, research papers, and writing stories. I have confidence in the papers I submit, I don't slack off. I have had fun making this portfolio because it made me realize all of the writing I have done for this course. I am proud of myself and my work. Thank you for taking the time to read my portfolio.

Signed,  
me

## Goals Letter

Dear Reader,

Everyone, has areas in which he or she struggles, some more than others. For me, because writing is difficult, I think I have more weaknesses than strengths.

Organization is key to writing a good paper. I find it hard to organize my ideas, and therefore I think my papers suffer because of it. A piece of writing could have the best information, with perfect punctuation, spelling, and sentence structure, but if it is not organized well, it will make little sense to the reader.

I am not sure why this is a weakness for me. I really do try to pre-write, but when it comes time to write my actual papers, I find myself wandering off topic. The more I try to bring my writing back on topic, the more confusing it becomes. This is very frustrating for me.

One way I hope to fix this weakness is to just stick to it. I will do this by looking over my pre-writing, picking out the topic I like best and just writing about that one topic. If I focus on this one topic, it will make my writing less USELESS!

You can see how wandering off topic hurt my research paper. It wanders all over the place and my grade shows that. In the body paragraphs, I used information I found from many sources. The sources don't really say the same thing and my paper really is confusing.

I think another thing that would help me is having someone else read my paper. In my English class, we usually have to read each other's drafts. If I get a good peer and not one of my friends, I usually get better suggestions.

This is the area I want to work on the most next year. I think you can see how bad organization affected both my writing and my grades. Therefore, I will just stick to one topic from now on.

Signed,  
me